THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (*SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI*): (a) to (c) M/s. Coca Cola South Asia Holdings Inc. USA have applied for approval to establish a unit in the Noida Export Processing Zone for the manufacture of proprietory compound preparations and extracts to be used in the production of non-alcoholic beverages. The technology involved relates to the production of a proprietory product. The operations of the unit are proposed to conform to the regime of Export Processing Zones and the transfer of the technology to the country does not arise. The application is under the consideration of the Board. Foreign brand names are generally not permitted for the sale of product in the Domestic Tariff Area.

Entry of Coca-Cola in Indian market

1120. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI T. R. BALU:

SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI:

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN:

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:

SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coca-Cola company is likely to enter into the Indian market and for this purpose, has submitted a proposal to the Central Government to set up a soft drink concentrate plant at NOIDA Export Processing Zones;

(b) whether Government propose to allow the Coca-Cola Company to enter into the Indian market; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the proposal submitted by the Company and what action has been taken thereon as yet by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) M/s. Coca Cola South Asia Holdings Inc., USA have applied for approval to establish a unit in the Noida Export Processing Zones for the manufacture of proprietory compund preparations and extracts to be used in the production of concentrates for non-alcoholic beverages. The scheme of production proposed by the company is in accordance with the regime of Export Processing Zones.

The Project proposal involves an investment of about Rs. 3.5 crores to generate exports over a five year period of about Rs. 25 crores of concentrates with a net foreign exchange realisation of Rs. 17 crores and a value addition of about 66%. The entire investment will be foreign owned. The application is under the consideration of the Board.

Writing off of loans given to farmers

1121. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported writing off of over Rs. 200 crores towards loans extended to the farmers by the Maharashtra Government;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Reserve Bank of India to extend any relief to the borrowers to meet the increasingly unfavourable climate in repayment of loans;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to bring parity in the huge amounts spent/granted to sick industries and the amount borrowed by small marginal and self-employed farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The State Government of Maharashtra had reported that certain decisions were taken by them with a view to lessen the burden of farmers, landless labourers and Adivasis through a package of remission of Government dues, freezing of interest dues and reschedulement of principal alongwith interest due to cooperative credit institutions.

(b) to (d) Reserve Bank of India has stated that there are provisions in existing guidelines for providing relief by way of converting short-term production loans into medium-term loans, rescheduling/postponement of existing term-loan instalments and provision of additional need based crop/investment loans to the farmers in case of natural calamities and other adverse exigencies. Further, Government has also decided to set up a National Agricultural Credit Relief Fund for providing relief in the debt burden to the farmers affected by successive natural calamities.

Proposed Changes in the Gold (Control) Act

1122. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering some changes in the present Gold (Control) Act and their policy of gold; and

(b) if so, what are the details of steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Government had set up two Working Groups to look into the Gold Control Act and the policy on gold. The reports of the two Groups have been submitted. Government has now set up a Group of Ministers to examine the proposed changes.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Report and Accounts (1987-88) of the Cashew Corporation of India, Cochin and related papers

II. Report and Accounts (1987-88) of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Cochin and related papers

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Cashew Corporation of India, Cochin, for the year 1987-88, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Corporation.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-7419/89 for (i) and (ii)]